

- Letters to the Editor -

To the Editor:
The action taken in the last two weeks by the Council, in my opinion, has not been in the best interest of the taxpayer. I believe many of the remarks made by the councilmen were uncalled-for and had no foundation. To me this indicates they have been badly informed as to existing conditions of your own city.

I am sure it is not the fault of Mr. Stevens, the city manager, as he has repeatedly urged an adjustment of wages and correction of manpower shortages. All he has asked for is proper services and protection for the taxpayer.

A prime example of the city's manpower situation is Fire Station No. 4 at the corner of Calle Mayor and Highway 101. This station is just a few doors from my house so I am well aware of how it operates. This building, which was designed to house one fire engine and one fire truck, has only one engine, one captain, one engineer and one fireman. These three men are responsible for furnishing fire protection for "20,000 people."

In cities where the councilmen have been realistic and given the taxpayer proper fire protection, even though it has meant higher taxes, this same station would be manned by five men for the engine and seven more for the truck. This manpower shortage exists all over the city. You can't put out fires and save lives unless you have the necessary personnel.

I wonder how many tax dollars it takes to pay for a life? This manpower shortage ex-

ists in the police department and many other city departments. The number of burglaries in this area is on the increase. This is certainly no fault of the police when they are not given the personnel nor the cars to protect the area.

I believe that Torrance firemen, police officers and other city employees should be paid a wage at least equal to the that of Los Angeles city and county employees of the same classification. I also believe that the "Longevity Compensation" plan that the firemen and police have requested should be granted.

I am more than willing to pay the increase in taxes that would be necessary to furnish proper protection and services for my family and our city—Mr. and Mrs. John Driesler, 5114 Pacific Coast Hwy., Torrance.

To the Editor:
After reading today's local paper, I was thoroughly disappointed to find that the firemen and police were granted only a 5 per cent raise instead of the 10 per cent raise they requested. It seems their request of longevity wasn't even considered.

This 5 per cent raise the city has granted still leaves the patrolman and the fireman \$30 a month underpaid compared to Los Angeles city and county; furthermore, as they go up in rank, the margin of pay is even greater.

These facts mean that our (Torrance) police and firemen's services are not valued as high in the city of Torrance as they are in Los Angeles and Los An-

geles County, even though they run the same risk of being shot and burned. Our cost of living is the same as in these areas, isn't it?

Why can't the city of Torrance judge the value of their employees in the same manner as Los Angeles city and county do? By using a comparison of jobs with industries.

Our city employees certainly deserve to be highest paid in the state. There is no other city with population of 100,000 that is as badly undermanned as our city. I believe that lack of money is a very poor excuse for not paying the firemen and police top wages. If taxes must be raised to pay these men top wages, it is our job to raise them. I am sure no taxpayer expects a fireman or policeman to risk his life and be underpaid, too. But this has been the case for many years here in Torrance.—Mr. and Mrs. Donald Corbett, 2326 West 184th St., Torrance.

To the Editor:
I have just read in the Tor-

rance papers of an approved 5 per cent raise for policemen and firemen in the city of Torrance. Although this is a step in the right direction, personally I feel they should receive a salary equivalent to the Los Angeles police and firemen. Taxpayers don't mind paying for the services and protection of these departments.

I recently had a fire in my home and the courteous, efficient way the fire department handled it leads me to believe they are definitely underpaid.—Mrs. Warren Coburn, 5132 Newton St., Torrance.

To the Editor:
How many of our good citizens in this, our fair and ultra-progressive city of Torrance, as myself and my family, are unaware of the vast, urgent need for the promotion and consequently adequate wage increases and acceptance of longevity for our ridiculously underpaid firemen and policemen?

I am appalled to hear (only a glimpse) of the lack of sufficient personnel servicing our

area on both the police and fire staffs.

Our taxes will go up, you say. I say, let them go up. If this is the means by which we can afford to have our city equipped and staffed according to needs of our growing population.

Perhaps our careful home-training will not be in vain if our boys and girls are assured they have the help and protection of a watchful, interested policeman or an available fireman, during their many hours away from parental influence. Perhaps some tragedies read in our Torrance papers can be avoided if there could be more men when the split-second calls for professional readiness.

Bless them—these men who are upholding our standards of living by devotion and at the same time supporting a family on low income while cost of living rises higher and higher.

Please note: I am not a fireman's or policeman's wife, nor am I in any way related to either. I am simply another mother who wishes to thank the

entire Torrance Fire and Police Department personnel for whatever hardships they've had to incur in order to contribute to the welfare of myself and my family.—Mrs. James M. Hurst, 5120 Pacific Coast Hwy., Torrance.

Letter to Editor:
As a long time resident and business woman of Torrance, I object to the curtailment of Bus Service between Torrance and Long Beach, and Torrance and Los Angeles. For the good of the City, we need rapid public transportation to these two major cities. When I have to go into Los Angeles on business, I find the Bus is the most convenient way to travel. Sincerely yours,
(signed) Mrs. Lois Lesoni.

ATTENDS CONFAB
R. Peter Bendorf of Bay Cities Pet Hospital, Torrance, is attending the California Veterinarians Medical Association convention in Santa Monica.

Use Press classified, FA 8-2345.

Last Meet of Year Held by Torrance PTA

"Reflections and Previews" was the theme of the last meeting of the year held by Torrance Elementary School PTA. A fashion show was presented by Mrs. Harold Irvine, program chairman. Girls from the 7th and 8th grade classes of Mrs. Virginia Rice, homemaking teacher, modeled dresses they had made themselves on the stage decorated to represent a rose garden.

Mrs. McClure
Mrs. James McClure, serving her second year as president, reported on the three-day state convention she attended in Los Angeles recently.

Highlighting the meeting was the presentation of a \$100 scholarship award to Torrance High School senior Mary Margaret Blount, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Blount, 1444 El Pra-

do Ave.
Miss Blount will enter Redlands University next fall as a music major. The scholarship is given each year to a senior entering the field of teaching in honor of a teacher who has performed exceptional work during the year with the PTA and the welfare for children.

Honored
This year the honor went to Mrs. Ruth Malone, 3rd and 4th grade teacher, who is juvenile protection and safety chairman for PTA.

Miss Blount will be graduated from Torrance High School this month. She belongs to the Senior Girl Scouts, Troop 1299, is honored queen of Bethel 50, Job's Daughters, and member of the Altar Guild of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Elaine King, 7th and 8th grade teacher, won the banner award for parents' attendance during the year and was given a check for \$10.

Mrs. Virgil Lessinger, historian, gave a report on accomplishments of the association for the past year.

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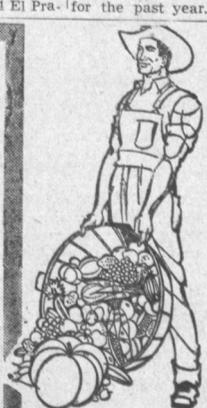
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